



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Rancho Carrillo Hazardous Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	Right-of-way along Rancho Carrillo Road Portions of sections 16, 17, 19 and 20 T7SR6W SBBM.	COUNTY	Riverside
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Gregg Bratcher, Forester II		
ADDRESS	P.O Box 2097, Idyllwild, CA, 92549	PHONE	(951) 659-3335

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project goal is to mitigate the impact that a wildland fire would have on the Rancho Carrillo community ingress/egress corridor. This proposed fuel reduction project will provide critical emergency ingress/egress and will create more favorable conditions for fire officials during fire suppression activities in the area which has previous fire history. Although the community is located in Riverside County, the project is developed in Orange County, on the access road right-of-way, connecting the community with Hwy 74. The treatment area is proposed on ~20 acres. On site vegetation is represented by chaparral and the elevation varies between 500-1400 ft. on various aspects and slopes. Under direct supervision of a CAL FIRE Captain, camp crews will be utilized to create defensible space by hand cutting overgrown, resprouting, dead, and competing vegetation in order to reduce the horizontal and vertical continuity and decrease the total fuel load. A masticator head installed on a rubber tracked skidsteer will be utilized where site conditions are appropriate with masticated material to be left on site. Hand cut material will be dragged to the nearest accessible road to be chipped and spread back on right-of-way site or transported off site. Grasses to be cut with weed eaters as needed. No new roads are to be constructed. Vehicles used for project delivery will be limited to existing roads.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4§15304 Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project meets the requirements of a Class 4 Categorical Exemption "15304 Minor Alterations to Land" - "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes". The project is small in size and will enhance forest health, increase general fire safety and improve aesthetics while creating minimal ground disturbance which will not result in significant effects on biological and archeological resources or the environment. Field reviews conducted by CAL FIRE staff have confirmed that no impacts will occur which would prevent the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE, Riverside Unit, 25380 Franklin Dr, Idyllwild CA 92549.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 28 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE


Heide Eng, Deputy Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

4/27/16
Date